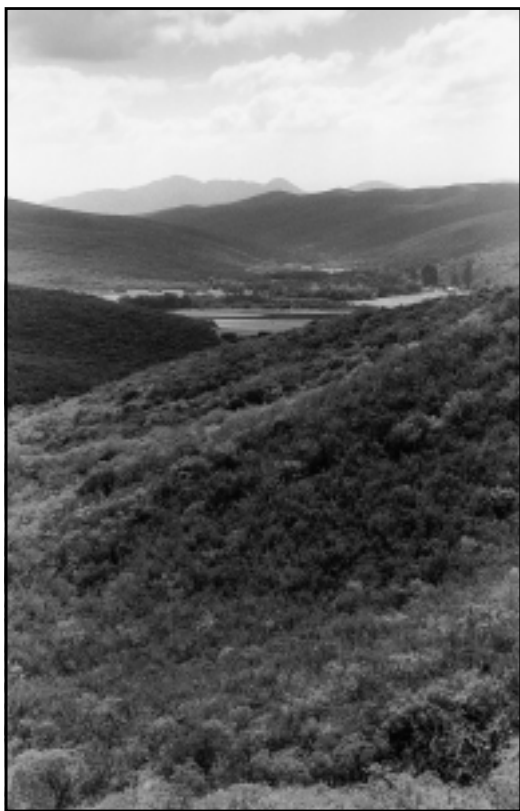


Sycamore Canyon/ Goodan Ranch Open Space Preserves



County of San Diego
Department of Parks
and Recreation

2454 Heritage Park Row
Old Town San Diego, CA 92110

San Diego County (Toll free) (877) 565-3600

Outside San Diego County (858) 565-3600

Information: (858) 694-3049

Ranger Station: (858) 513-4737

www.sdparcs.org

Welcome to Sycamore Canyon/ Goodan Ranch Open Space Preserves

For those seeking solitude and recreation in a scenic natural setting, Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Open Space Preserves have much to offer. Visitors can hike along miles of trails, where they will enjoy grand vistas, abundant wildlife, and interesting reminders of the long and varied history of man's use of the area.

Sycamore Canyon consists of 1700 acres of coastal sage scrub and chaparral-covered hills nestled between the cities of Poway and Santee. Bordering the canyon on the west side and stretching through the valley floor is the 325-acre Goodan Ranch, a mix of diverse habitats including grassland, riparian, coastal sage, oak woodland, and mixed chaparral.

Goodan Ranch is rich in early American history. Present day structures at the preserve date back to the 1930s, when it was a working ranch. Today, Goodan Ranch is jointly managed by the cities of Poway and Santee, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation.

Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon are enjoyable for their peaceful solitude, recreation opportunities, and beauty. You'll find a multitude of different plant and animal habitats, including coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, oak woodlands, riparian, and native grasslands. Common plants include California sagebrush, buckwheat, chamise, lilac, manzanita, lemonadeberry, coast live oak, sycamores, arroyo willow, and various native grasses. Mule deer, coyote, bobcat, rattlesnakes, and birds such as California gnatcatchers, Hutton's vireos, and scrub jays are among some of the wildlife you may discover.

The preserves contain more than 10 miles of hiking trails, along with a staging area for horses. Recreation is allowed seven days a

week at Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon. The preserves are accessible seven days a week from the Goodan Ranch staging area, Saturdays and Sundays from the Highway 67 staging area.

The following descriptions correspond to the trails marked on the map.

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- A** Starting at the Goodan Ranch staging area, Martha's Grove memorial trail descends through hills and canyons covered in coastal sage scrub to an oak grove once visited by Native Americans. This trail is moderate in difficulty and is a three-mile loop round trip.
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- B** Starting on the valley floor, reached from either the Martha's Grove trail or the dirt road, you make a two-mile loop around the southern half of Goodan Ranch, where you'll see historic barns built 60 years ago. This trail system crosses a perennial stream that is home to a variety of wildlife, including numerous colorful species of dragonflies and butterflies. Red-shouldered hawks and white-tailed kites frequent the trees and meadows. This trail is an easy hike.
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- C** A firebreak along a ridge starting high up at the Sycamore Canyon staging area offers a rugged and steep two-mile drop down to the canyon south of Goodan Ranch. This difficult trail descends to the corner of Sycamore Canyon, overlaps the Goodan Ranch trail for 0.7 mile, and loops around back to the staging area. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended, as the surface consists of exposed river rock.



Goodan Ranch barn

Tips for Hikers

Take the time to enjoy your outdoor experience. Binoculars will help you observe the plants and animals as you walk quietly along the trails. A camera will preserve memories of your visit.

Carry water. Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch can be very hot and dry, and there is no water available on the trails. For a full day's hike in moderate temperatures, you might need at least one gallon of water. Do not drink from the stream.

If you are planning a longer hike, **carry light trail snacks.** They will help maintain your energy level.

Wear suitable clothing and footgear. Sturdy shoes and a hat are indispensable, and sunglasses, sunscreen, and insect repellent are highly recommended. Weather conditions can change rapidly, so be prepared for extremes.

Tell a friend or family member about your hiking plans. Be specific about your route and what time you should return. Hike with a companion.

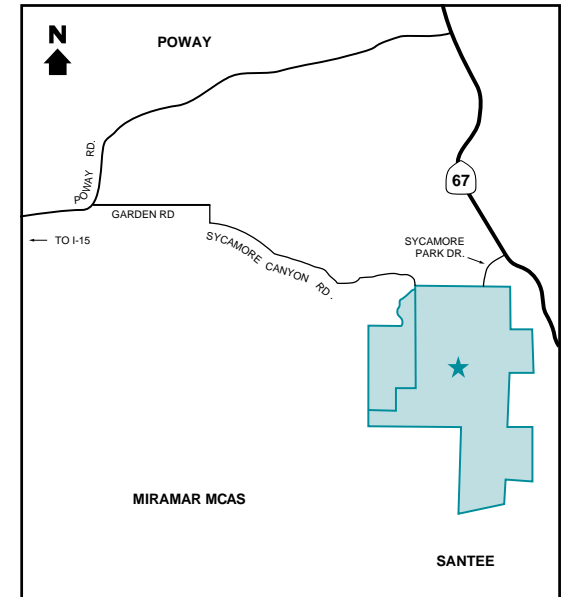
Stay on the trails. The natural resources of Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch are fragile. Their survival and your safety depend on correct trail etiquette. Don't cut switchbacks—proper trail maintenance depends on proper trail use.

Carry a first aid kit. It can make the difference between an enjoyable hike and a potentially serious situation.

Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch are wilderness areas. Poison oak, bees, ticks, and rattlesnakes occur here naturally.

There are no restrooms, phones, or potable water in Sycamore Canyon or Goodan Ranch

Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch Open Space Preserves



Other County Open Space Preserves:

El Capitan Nearly 3,000 rugged, mountainous acres of dense chaparral and oak woodland. Located between Lakeside and the Barona Indian Reservation. Six-mile trail, one way, to El Cajon Mountain. Primitive — no water is available.

Mt. Gower Dense chaparral and scattered oak woodlands on 1,574 acres southeast of Ramona. Eight miles of trails. Restrooms, primitive group camping, and water at trailhead.

Hellhole Canyon More than 11 miles of trails traverse this rugged 1,712-acre park, which features spectacular views for hikers and equestrians. Located about ten miles northeast of Escondido.

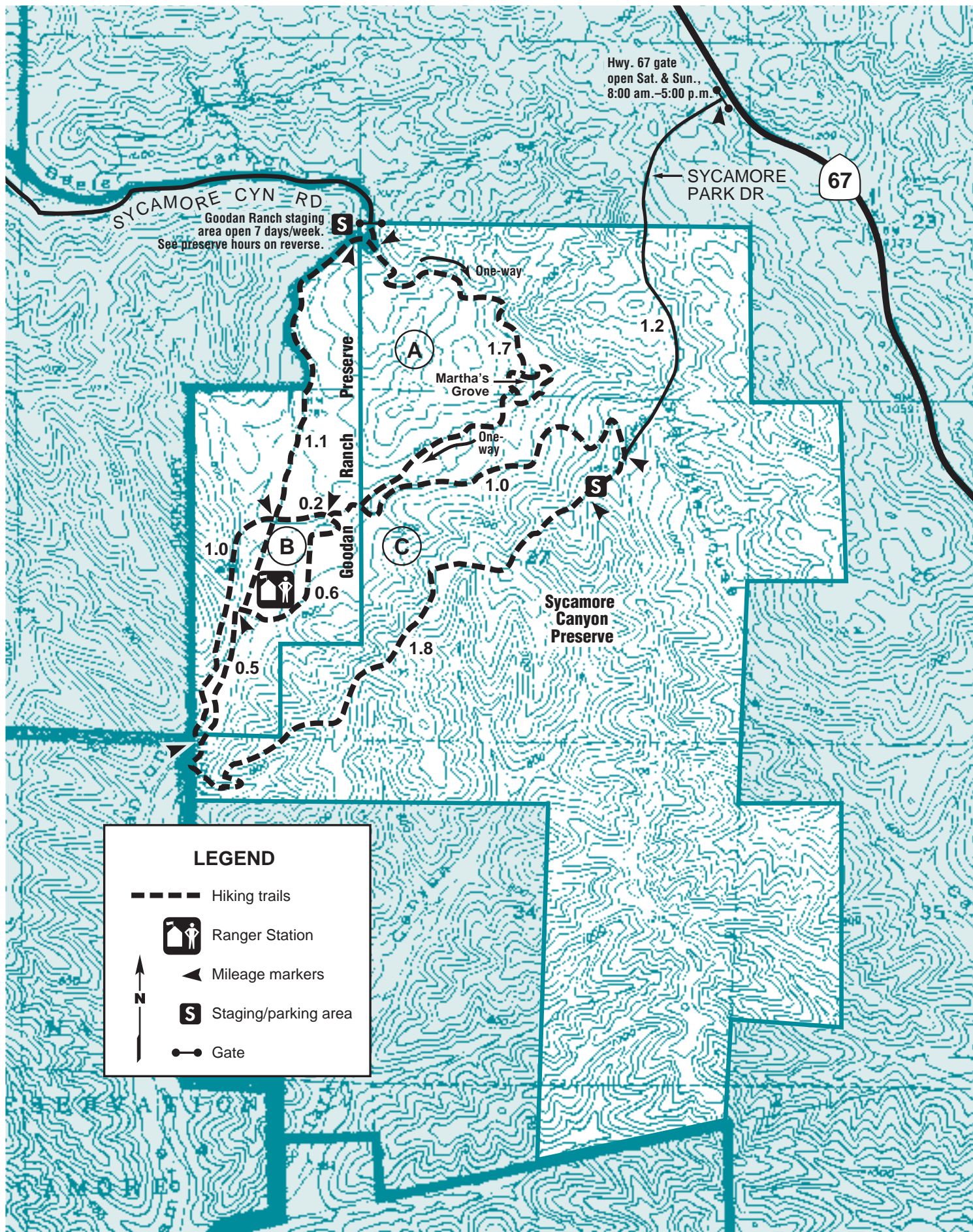


Sugarcane

Preserve hours:

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. October-March

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. April-September



Rules and Regulations for Open Space Preserves

ACCIDENTS: The County of San Diego shall not be responsible for loss or accidents.

UNAUTHORIZED MOTOR VEHICLES: The unauthorized operation of motor vehicles is prohibited.

SPEED LIMIT: 10 m.p.h. on all trails.

BICYCLES: Bicyclists must yield right-of-way to other users. Children are required to wear helmets.

LITTERING: Is prohibited.

DEFACEMENT PROHIBITED: No person shall remove, deface, or destroy trail markers, monuments, fences, trees, camp or picnic structures, or other preserve facilities.

PRESERVATION OF TRAIL FEATURES: All wildlife, plant, and geologic features are protected and are not to be damaged or removed. All historical artifacts are to be left in place.

HORSES AND OTHER ANIMALS: No horse or other animal shall be hitched to any tree, shrub, or structure in a manner that may cause damage to preserve property. No person shall ride, drive, lead, or keep a horse, except in areas specifically designated for such use.

PETS: Dogs are allowed on a maximum six foot leash. Please clean up after your dog.

NO HUNTING: No person shall use, transport, carry, fire, or discharge any firearms, air guns, archery device, slingshot, fireworks, or explosive device of any kind in a preserve.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: No intoxicating liquors having more than 20% alcohol by volume are permitted.

FIRE HAZARDS AND SMOKING: No smoking. Campfires are prohibited. Stoves allowed only in primitive group camping area.

